

The M. S. U. Independent

VOLUME IV.

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1896.

NUMBER 6.

The Contest.

THE annual preliminary oratorical contest was held in the University chapel Thursday evening November 12th. There were six contestants and each came well prepared. It was a decided improvement over last year's contest. It was unfortunate that it was necessary to have it on the same evening of the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. reception, but this could not be helped as Thursday was the latest time any school in the association was allowed and the contest could not be arranged for an earlier date. Though the audience was not as large as it would have been if the contest had been the only entertainment on that evening, still there were a fair number of appreciative and sympathetic friends out to hear the speakers. Judge Lawson presided in his usual happy manner. The University band under the leadership of Prof. Pannell furnished the music of the evening.

Mr. W. F. Bland was the first speaker on the program and his subject was "The Man of Destiny." Of course on this wornout subject it would be difficult for a young speaker to say anything new and interesting. To all enthusiastic and extravagant admirers of Napoleon Mr. Bland's effort would be regarded as a strong plea. Whether history will justify some of his statements we will not enter into now. Mr. Bland is an earnest and forceful speaker. His delivery was hardly conversational enough and his gestures a little awkward, yet their awkwardness served to show the speaker's earnestness and thorough belief in what he was saying.

Mr. Guy L. Thompson was next introduced and sustained his reputation as a speaker upon the theme, "The Debt of Sovereignty." This oration ranked very high in thought and composition as well as

in delivery, two judges ranking him second and one ranking him first. Mr. Thompson has a full, rich voice and is a very pleasing speaker indeed, although he is a little mechanical in his delivery and what some would call "stagey" in his movements and bearing. The decision of the judges by a small fraction gave Mr. Thompson first honors. In Mr. Thompson the University has an excellent chance of winning in the intercollegiate contest at Kansas City

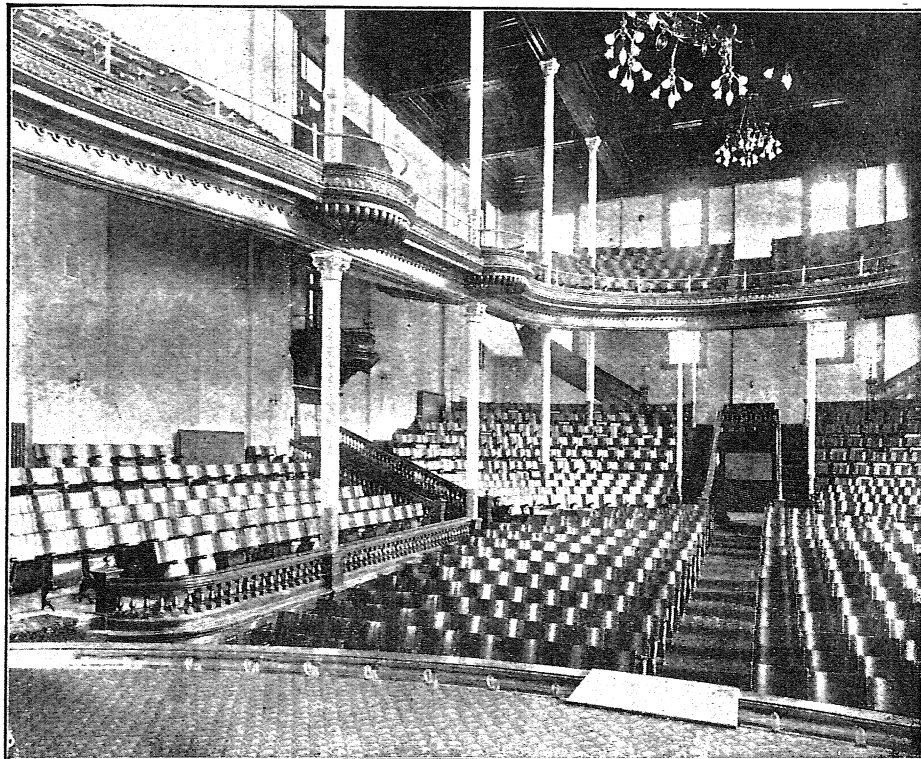
form of government and closed with an eloquent appeal for our republic. Mr. Ryland's delivery was free, easy, and natural.

The most interesting speech of the evening was made by Mr. C. S. Price on Thomas H. Huxley. It was the noblest effort we ever heard a young man make. Mr. Price has a voice which compels you to listen and wins your sympathy from the first. He felt his speech and he made his audience feel it. His eloquent plea for the great agnostic

won for him two first votes on delivery and a reputation as a speaker. On thought Mr. Price received one vote for first and two votes for third. Mr. Price only fell behind Mr. Thompson two points which gives him second honors.

The next and last on the program was a timely and practical oration on "The Duty of Citizenship" by Mr. A. E. Russell. This oration was ranked second on thought and composition. But on delivery Mr. Russell fell a little below the rank of his composition.

After the contest there seemed still to be a contest between Mr. Thompson and Mr. Price. One judge who lives out of town had



UNIVERSITY CHAPEL.

December 4th. Success to him and our University.

"Great Men As Private Citizens" was the subject of the oration delivered by Mr. S. M. Wood. Mr. Wood is entirely modern in his style of speaking. He is easy and conversational in his manner of delivery and has in him the elements of a true orator.

Mr. L. G. Ryland was next introduced and spoke upon the subject, "True Government." Of course the speaker's idea of government was a republic and the nearest approach to his ideal was the system of government in the United States. He gave an historical review of the theories of government, giving especial attention to the formation of our

not yet sent in his grades and the decision of the five judges made it a tie between Mr. Price and Mr. Thompson. The returns of the unheard-from judge came in next day giving the preference to Mr. Thompson's oration. This gave him the prize and the honor of representing the University in the Intercollegiate contest at Kansas City.

The following is the averaged rank of both sets of judges:

The Debt of Sovereignty, Guy A. Thompson, first place.

Thomas H. Huxley, C. S. Price, second place.

The Duty of Citizenship, A. E. Russell, third place.

True Government, L. G. Ryland, fourth place.

The Man of Destiny, W. F. Bland, fifth place.

Great Men As Private Citizens, S. M. Wood, sixth place.